

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending and stand rejected; dependent claim 2 is cancelled without prejudice and new independent claim 21 is added. Claims 3-4, 6, 10-14 and 17 are hereby amended.

Upon entry of the instant amendment, only dependent claim 3 should have an effective filing date equal to 13 December 2001, with the other claims deriving priority from U.S. Patent No. 6,084,487 filed 27 November 1998, which supports the mechanical coupling arrangement at column 6, line 33 and elsewhere throughout the disclosure. For example, the Specification provides that probe coupling also may be achieved via a mechanical coupling arrangement of the case with a printed circuit board at the proximal end of the case. This disclosure of means for facilitating the mechanical connections in the original filing supports claims directed to providing such a mechanical fitting for engagement with the proximal end of the case. With regard to the relationship between the removable tap housing and a metallic coupling, e.g., a BeCu socket having a brushing action, this relationship is also described at column 6, lines 61-67, column 7, lines 1-11 and FIG. 7 of the '487 patent. Thus, the disclosure supports a mechanical fitting or mechanical coupling as recited in independent claims 1, 14 and 21.

Additionally, with regard to the Drawings and Specification, the connector pins may include surface-mount connector pads. See, e.g., p. 13, lines 1-3 and Figures 8 and 9 supporting the recitations of claim 7. Page 11, lines 18-26 and Figures 3B and 3C provide support for recitations in claims 8-9, and thus the objections are traversed. Further, claims 14 and 17 are amended to clarify what constitutes the proximal end and the distal end.

Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Hoffman '487 patent in view of Shult, U.S. Patent No. 3,621,484 and Suppelsa, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,591,364.

In view of the foregoing, the Hoffman '487 patent is not a prior art reference with regard to claims 1 and 4-16, as amended, and thus the rejection is traversed with respect to these claims. With respect to dependent claim 3, as amended, it is respectfully submitted that although the Shult reference discloses screws that are technically removable for securing a coil in place, Suppelsa, et al. is concerned with securing joints of thermoplastic material. The Suppelsa, et al. '364 patent at column 3, lines 3-9 describes:

Once the two halves 10, 12 of the housing shown in FIG. 1 are joined together, it is difficult, if not impossible, to separate them without damage, as no means of accessing the snap-fit joints to release them from the outside is provided. Several types of snap joints are commonly used: cantilever snap joints, torsion snap joints and annular snap joints.

Accordingly, Fig. 1 does not show or suggest Applicant's invention. Moreover, Shult at column 2 lines 50-68 further describe each coil being bound by soldering it to notches 22 in the sidewall of the housing 12. Accordingly, the mechanical fitting including a nub extending from the removable tap housing and the filter case having a detent at a proximal end for receiving the nub is neither disclosed nor suggested in the prior art for releasable engagement with the filter case.

Claims 17-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimizu, JP 03-174801 in view of Guglielmi, U.S. Patent No. 5,557,530. The Shimizu reference appears neither to disclose the use of a computer program nor the use of a computer program over the internet. Guglielmi is concerned with eliminating tuning elements. The Guglielmi '530 patent also does not use a computer program over the internet, but only discloses a computation unit 22 provided within a filter system itself to automatically synthesize waveguide filters to avoid the use of tuning elements in a particular waveguide filter system. The prior art does not access a design program over a computer network for defining and identifying signal couplers or like filter components for specifying assembly of the electronic device. In addition to neither reference's teaching nor suggesting the use of an

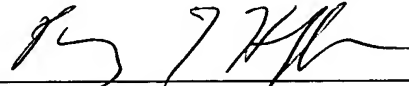
internet interface nor any external computer program, the Guglielmi '530 patent fails to disclose or suggest accessing a high-frequency filter design program via the internet for generating characteristic information from helical filter component data.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that each of pending claims 1 and 3-21 are patentable over the prior art. Allowance of the pending claims is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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